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NBC

ADVERTISER PARK HOME HOUR
PROGRAM TITLE UNCLE SAM'S FOREST RANGERS - 30 MIN.
CHICAGO OUTLET WMAQ
(12-30-12:30 TIME) (JANUARY 15, 1937) (FRIDAY DAY
PRODUCTION
ANNOUNCER
ENGINEER
REMARKS



ANNOUNCER: "Uncle Sam's Forest Rangers"

MUSIC: Quartet, Ranger's Song

ANNOUNCER: And now to the Pine Cone National Forest. For some time since the deer hunting season closed on the Pine Cone National Forest, Ranger Jim Robbie has been worried about the fact that folks on his district seemed to be getting rather lax in observing the game laws. Several times he found evidence of out-of-season killings. Last week, you remember, Ranger Jim and his assistant, Jerry Black, made a trip to investigate a deer salting station near the ranch of Bill Thompson. The rancher accompanied them. When they arrived at the salting station, they found the carcass of a deer that had just been shot. It happened to be an old buck that was quite a pet with the community. Folks had given the buck the name of Captain Kidd because he raided their farms and ranches for food whenever he was hungry. A tradition has grown up about him, until it was considered that anyone who saw him would be blessed with good fortune. So, when his carcass was found in the snow, the men were eager to find the killer. Bill Thompson was certain that the deer had been killed by a trapper who was reported to have recently broken into a Government cabin in Cobalt Valley, and when we last left last week they were on their way up there.



ANNOUNCER: (CONT'D)

Now, we find Ranger Jim Robbins, Jerry Quick, and the rancher at the edge of the clearing near the cabin, where they have come in search of the trapper, who they think killed the old buck, Captain Kidd....

JERRY: (FADE IN) There's the cabin we're looking for, Jim.

JIM: Yep, that's it, Jerry. We don't have any proof that this fellow shot the deer, but if he broke into that cabin, we'll have to arrest him for trespass on government property, anyhow.

BILL: There's smoke comin' outa the chimney.

JIM: Yep, better wait here a minute. He might be in there.

JERRY: But his tracks away from the deer went the other way.

BILL: He coulda doubled back and beat us here.

JERRY: What'll we do, Jim?

JIM: Keep back so he can't see you, if he's in there. We'll figure out something.

BILL: He oughta take a pot shot at him like he did at that buck.

JIM: Oh no, Bill, That ain't the way to do it.

JERRY: If he's the guy that's been doing all the poaching around here, it'll go plenty bad for him though.

BILL: It'll go bad for him anyway, when folks find out he killed old Captain Kidd.

JIM: Well, boys, I reckon about the only thing to do is strike out across the clearing for the cabin.

JERRY: What're we gonna do?

JIM: See if he's in there.

BILL: But he might take a shot at us. And we ain't got no gunz.

JIM: I don't think he'd try anything like that, Bill.

BILL: I ain't crazy about takin' a chance on it.

JIM: All right, Bill, you can wait here for Jerry and me.

BILL: Huh?...Say, whaddya take me for...You go ahead. I'll stick with you.

JIM: (CHUCKLES) Let's go then.

JERRY: I don't see anyone moving around in there.

BILL: Maybe he ain't comin' back at all.

JIM: Can't tell what he might do.

BILL: Say, wait! Look there in that window at the left of the door. I seen someone movin'.

JIM: I don't see anything.

BILL: It's stopped now.

JERRY: He musta doubled back on us, like you said, Bill.

BILL: I'll bet he's just waitin' to take a crack at us. You gonna keep goin', Jim?

JIM: Sure.

BILL: Look, there's someone movin' again.

JIM: You're seein' things, Bill. I'll call out and see if we get any answer. (CALLING) Yo, there!...Anybody home?

JERRY: No answer.

JIM: All right. We'll go in and see if he's there.

BILL: (HOARSE WHISPER) Wait, Jim. Maybe that's what he's waitin' for you to do.

JIM: We'll never know if we don't open the door....

EFFECT: (DOOR OPENS WITH CREAK OF HINGES)

JIM: Hello....Anybody here?

BILL: Better be careful, Jim.

JIM: Come in, boys. Our friend hasn't got back.

BILL: Better look around good, Jim.

JERRY: There's a fire in the fireplace yet. He hasn't been gone very long.

BILL: I see somethin' movin' in here...

JIM: (QUICKLY) There it is!

BILL: (JUMPY) What? Where? Where is he?

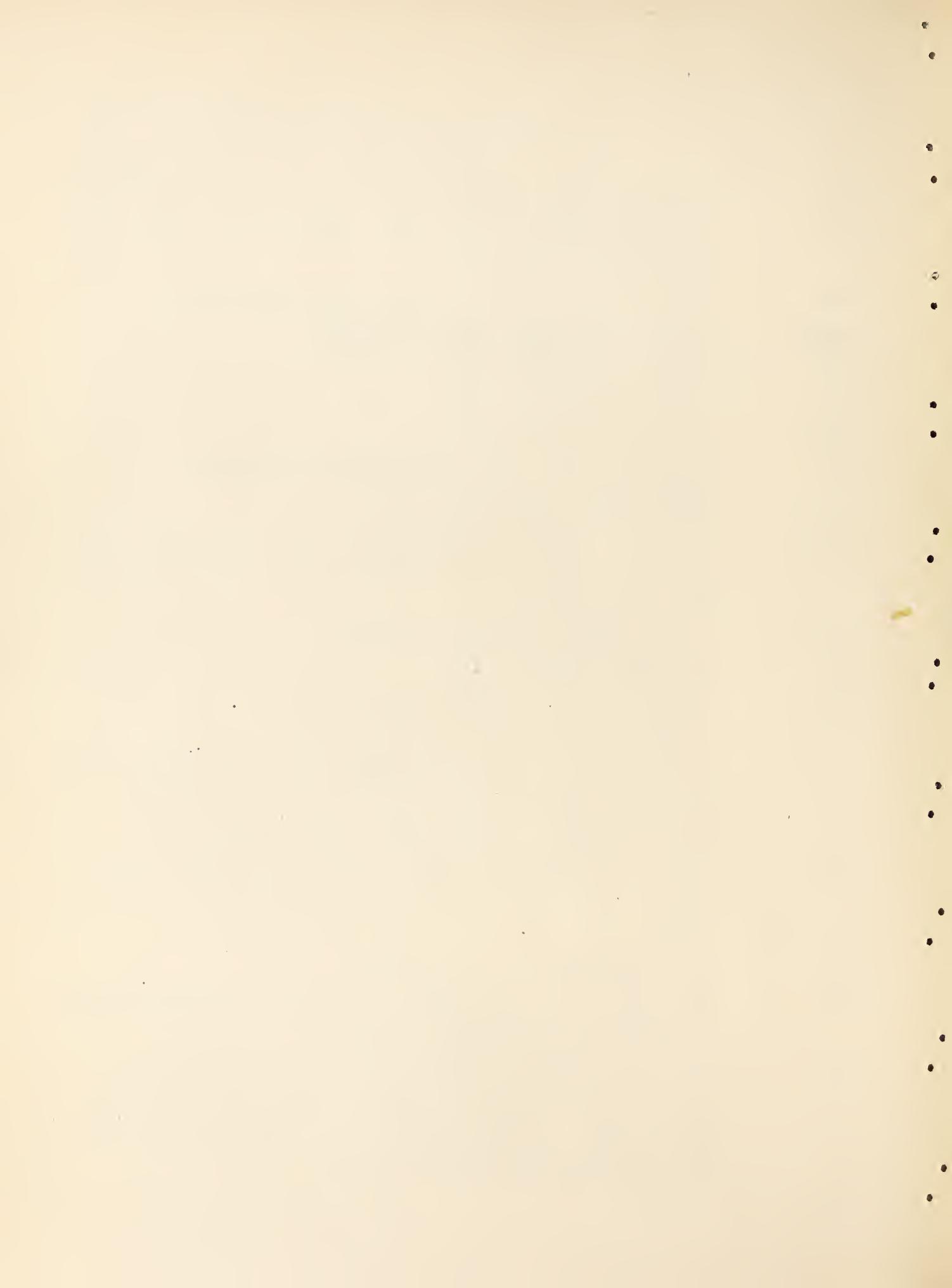
JIM: (CHUCKLING) It's that newspaper over the window. The door was open a little and the paper kept blowin' back and forth. That's what you saw, Bill.

BILL: It sure looked to me like someone was movin' around in here.

JERRY: What're we gonna do now, Jim?

JIM: Wait for 'im to come back, I guess, and arrest him for breaking into Government property.

BILL: Yeah. We oughta wait here for 'im. He'll turn up pretty soon. Looks like he's moved in for good, with all the grub and traps he's got.



JIM: He might not come back if he sees our tracks in the snow, leadin' up to the cabin.

BILL: I never thought of that. He'd shy off quicker'n a skittish colt.

JIM: I guess we'll have to fool him a little.

JERRY: How, Jim?

JIM: We'll just make ourselves some tracks leadin' away from here.

BILL: How're we gonna get 'im if we leave.

JIM: Well, I guess I better hide out there at the edge of the clearing til he turns up.

BILL: But he's totin' a gun.

JIM: I figured I'd do the job myself, Bill. I reckon I can sorta mosey up to the cabin peaceful like, without stirrin' up too much fuss.

JERRY: Think it'll work, Jim?

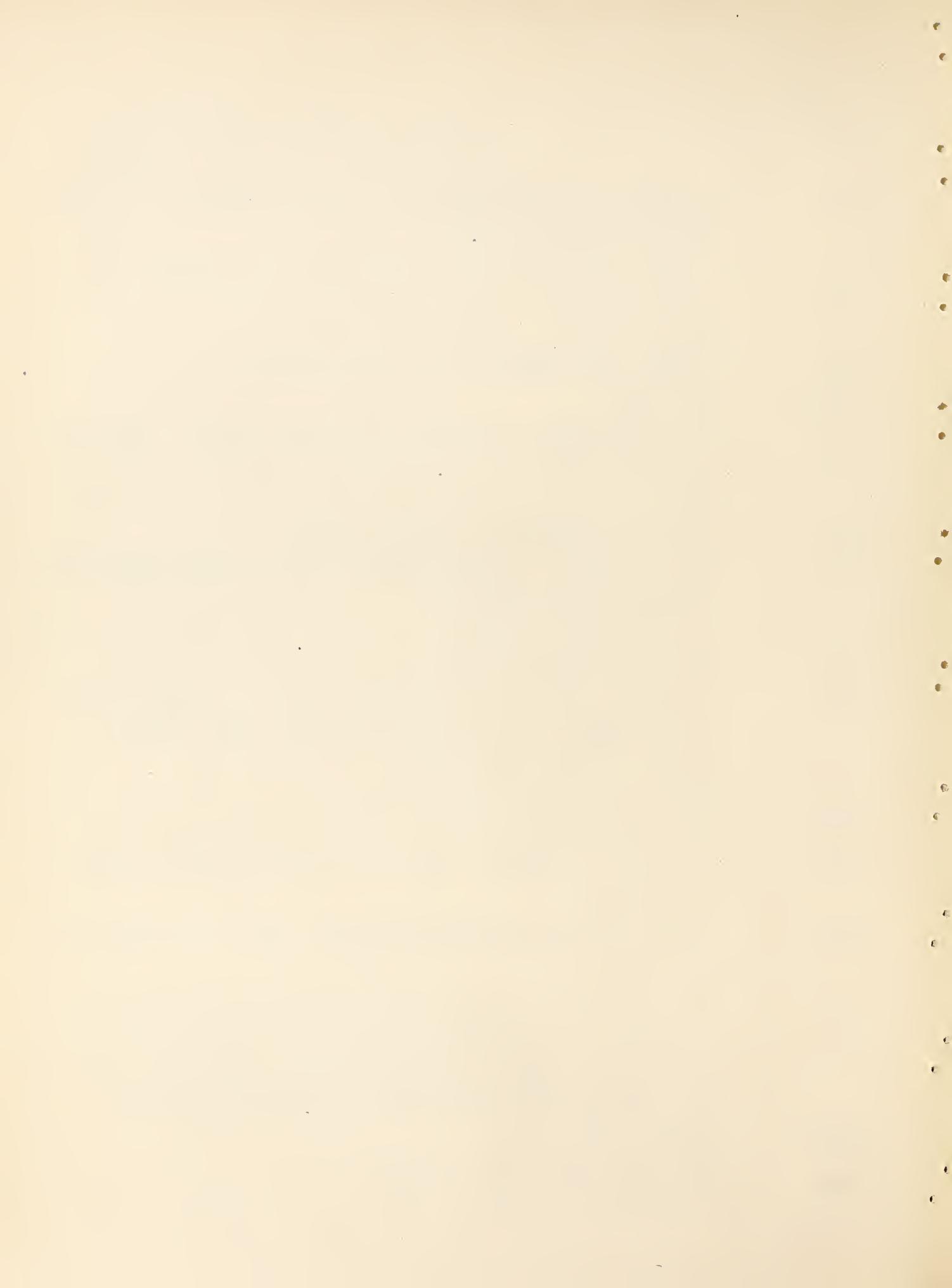
JIM: Gotta try it anyway. It'll work better with one man. You and Bill...

JERRY: You're not gonna stay by yourself, Jim. I'm gonna stay with you.

JIM: I expect it'd be better for just one of us, Jerry. You and Bill go round up the game warden, and see if you can't get something more definite on that deer shooting.

JERRY: Listen, Jim....

JIM: All right, let's get movin'.



JERRY: Listen, Jim. I don't care if you are the boss. I'm staying with you.

JIM: (PAUSE) Okay, son. Bill, you hit for your place and call Bess. She'll know how to get hold of the game warden as quick as anybody. Then I wish you'd go down to the station and wait for us there.

BILL: Whatever you say, Jim. Just you wait till folks hear about the way old Captain Kidd was killed. It'll be plenty hot for...

JIM: We don't want anybody to know about it now, Bill. We've got to keep it quiet or there's likely to be trouble. Don't tell a soul but Bess. And tell her to keep it quiet, too.

BILL: Okay, Jim. (FADE) Watch out for that fella.

SIGS: (INTERLUDE)

EFFECT: (PHONE RINGS)

BESS: (FADE IN) Hello. Pine Cone Ranger Station. This is Mrs. Robbins ... Yes, Mr. Thompson... That? ...the game warden? What's happened? ...Killed Captain Kidd? ...now, that can't be true. When did it happen? ... Oh, that's terrible. Where's Jim?Yes....Not to tell anybody else...All right.. You're coming down here to the station?....All right, Mr. Thompson, thank you. I'll call the warden right away...Goodbye.

(RECEIVER CLICKS)

MARY: What is it, Mrs. Robbins?

BESS: Some one's shot Captain Kidd.

MARY: Oh, They didn't... .

BESS: Mr. Thompson said they think it's a trapper who lives up in Cobalt Valley.

MARY: What are they going to do about it?

BESS: Jim and Jerry are up there now trying to get him. He broke into a Forest Service cabin. They want us to send the game warden up there as soon as possible.

MARY: But it'll be dark before he can get there.

BESS: I know it will. I wish Jim wouldn't take such chances.

MARY: Do you think they'll be all right?

BESS: It's foolish of us to worry, Mary. Of course they'll be all right...but ..

MARY: What will folks say when they find out about Captain Kidd?

BESS: I'm afraid of what will happen. That deer was shot or like a mascot to the whole community.

MARY: Yes. They thought he brought good luck.

BESS: I must call the game warden. (FADE A BIT) I'll try him at home first...(RECEIVER CLICK) Hello....Elmira! Will you get me Mr. Potter's house, please?...Yes, this is Mrs. Robbins, Elmira...No, nothing's happened, just get me the game warden's house...yes...

MARY: That Elmira Baker is too nosey. She's always listening in on the line.

BESS: (OFF) Hello....Hello, Mr. Parker? This is Mrs. Robbins. Jim wants you to come to the old cabin up in Cobalt Valley. That deer everybody calls Captain Kidd has been killed, and Jim thinks it might be the trapper that's moved in there....Yes, he'll be waiting there for you...Yes, it is a shame, isn't it...Yes...And Jim wants it kept quiet, because he's afraid there may be trouble if folks find out about it...Yes...All right, goodbye. (RECEIVER CLICK)

MARY: Oh, I hope they catch that trapper. I can't see why anybody would want to shoot a deer, especially one like Captain Kidd.

BESS: Jim's been fighting against out-of-season killing for a long time. But nobody pays much attention to it. I know he's awfully discouraged about it.

MARY: But it must have been some stranger who shot Captain Kidd. There isn't anybody who lives around here who would do such a thing.

BESS: Of course not. That must be the reason Jim suspects this trapper.

MARY: But Mr. Robbins said that no one even told him that man was trapping up there, or that he'd broken into the cabin.

BESS: I know, Mary. Jim didn't know about it til he overheard some of the men talking at the store this morning.

MARY: Oh, how can people let a thing like that happen, without doing something about it?

BESS: Jim says they don't understand how important it really is to....

EFFECT: (PHONE RINGS)

BESS: Goodness, I wonder who that is? (FADE A BIT) We'll never get to supper at this rate. (RECEIVER CLICKS) Hello. Pine Cone Ranger Station.....Oh, hello, Mrs. Melcher....You what?....Why, yes...Yes, that's right, but.....But how did you find out?....What?...Hello Hello, Mrs. Melcher...(CLICK RECEIVER) (FADE IN) What on earth could have been the matter with her? She hung up so quickly.

MARY: Mrs. Melcher hung up on you?

BESS: Yes.

MARY: Without talking at least a half hour?

BESS: Something must have been wrong.

MARY: I can't understand it.

BESS: But she knew all about Captain Kidd being killed.

MARY: She did? How did she find out about it?

BESS: I don't know, Mary.

MARY: She's not on this party line. She couldn't have listened in.

BESS: No, that wouldn't be possible. I wonder if she.

EFFECT: (PHONE RINGS)

MARY: There it is again.

BESS: (FADE A BIT) I hope nobody else knows about it. (RECEIVER CLICK) Hello....Yes, Andy, this is Mrs. Robbins speaking....No, I don't know when Jim will be back...you did? Who told you?I said who told you...Oh, no, Andy, I wouldn't do that if I were you. I don't think Jim would want you to get anybody....And you're coming up here?...But I....All right, I'll tell him as soon as he comes in. All right, goodbye. (RECEIVER CLICKS)

MARY: What's wrong now, Mrs. Robbins?

BESS: (FADE IN) That was Andy Goodman, down at the store. He's just heard about Captain Kidd and he's going to get together some of the men and bring them up here to the station to help Jim get the trapper.

MARY: But can't we do something to stop them?

BESS: There isn't a thing we can do now. But if Jim gets back soon enough, I'm sure he can keep them from making any trouble.

MARY: Mr. Thompson said he was coming to the station to wait until Mr. Robbins got back.

BESS: Oh, yes, I forgot. He'll keep the men here until Jim comes.

MARY: But how did Andy find out about it?

BESS: Oh, dear, I don't know that either.

MARY: Mrs. Melcher couldn't have had time to call him.

BESS: No. And he isn't on this party line.

MARY: Oh, wait a minute, I think I can solve the mystery.

BESS: What do you mean, Mary?

MARY: I think I know how everyone found out about Captain Kidd being killed.

BESS: Yes, Mary.

MARY: If you'll just ring for central and ask Elmira Baker, I think she can tell us.

BESS: I begin to see now.

MARY: She's such a gossip.

BESS: I don't know what Jim will do when he finds out about it. Everybody in town probably knows about it by now.

MARY: I guess so.

BESS: Look, there's someone coming across the yard now.

MARY: It must be one of the men Andy Goodman was going to get.

BESS: I suppose it is. Oh, I do wish Mr. Thompson would come before very many of them get here. (FADE) Goodness knows how many there'll be.

MUSIC: (INTERLUDE)

EFFECT: (MURMUR OF CROWD IN BACKGROUND)

BESS: (FADE IN) I'm awfully glad you got here, Mr. Thompson.

SILL: Made it as fast as I could, Mrs. Robbins. Jim said I was to wait here for 'im.

BESS: I don't know what I'd have done with all these men if you hadn't come.

BILL: They're hoppin' mad, Ma'am, but you can't blame 'em.

MARY: But what can they do? Someone shot the deer and the game warden and Jim and Jerry will catch whoever it was.

BILL: I guess the boys figure they'll be needed as a jury, Miss.

MARY: But they don't know for sure who did it yet.

BILL: Well, Miss, folks out here ain't much for wastin' time when justice that's due is plain as a wart on your nose.

BESS: But, Mr. Thompson, Jim said he didn't want any trouble. He knew folks would get riled up if they found out about it.

VOICES: (OFF) HERE COMES JIM. HERE HE COMES. THAT'S JERRY WITH HIM.

BILL: Lookout, boys, let 'em in.

EFFECT: (DOOR OPENS)

VOICES: WHERE'S THAT TRAPPER, JIM? DID YOU GET 'IM? WHERE IS HE, JIM?

BILL: Shut up, you fellas, and let Jim talk.

EFFECT: (CROWD SUBSIDES)

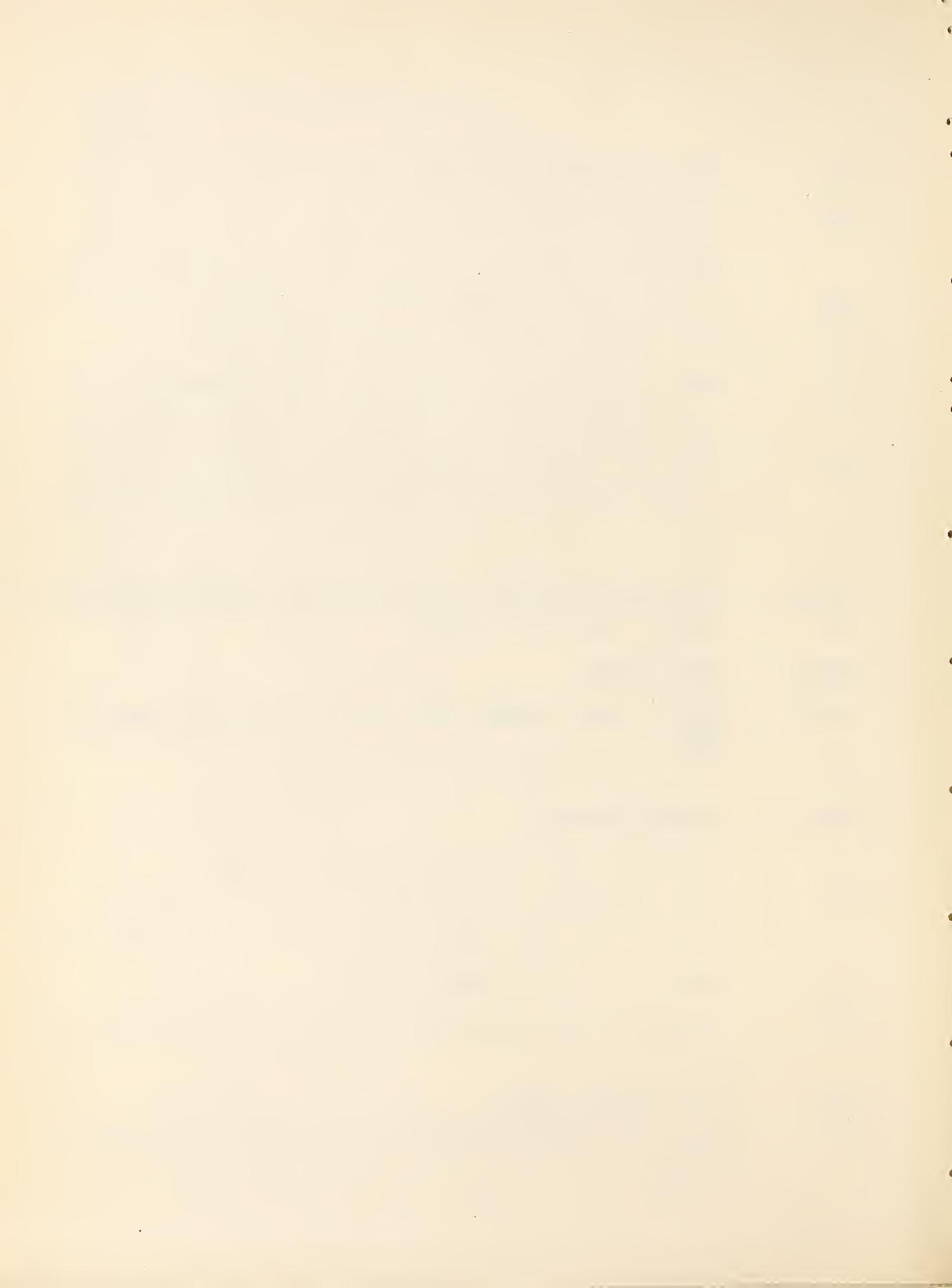
JIM: (FADE IN) What's all the party about, Bess?

BESS: Jim, I'm awfully sorry everybody found out about the killing, when you wanted it kept quiet. But Elmira Bates heard me tell Mr. Paker.

JIM: You don't have to say any more, Bess. I know the rest of it.

BESS: I'm terribly sorry.

JIM: Don't you trouble yourself, Bess. 'Twasn't your fault at all.



BESS: It's a good thing you sent Mr. Thompson along. The men wanted to start for Cobalt Valley, but he wouldn't let them.

JIM: Uhuh! ...What's the purpose of the congregation, Bill?

BILL: The boys kinda figured you might need some help to handle the hombre that picked off old Captain Kidd.

VOICES: WE'LL HELP YOU, JIM. WHERE IS HE, JIM? DID YOU GET 'IM, JIM?

JIM: (ABOVE VOICES) We got him, all right.

VOICES: (NOISILY) WHERE IS HE? LET'S RIDE 'IM ON A RAIL. TAR AND FEATHER 'IM.

JIM: Be quiet, all of you! (CROWD SUBSIDES QUICKLY) Now, listen to me, you fellas. I tried to keep the news of this deer killing from you, because I knew exactly what'd happen. You're fightin' mad because somebody shot a deer that you thought could bring good luck to these parts. You think the fella that did it oughta be tarred and feathered. But you're all just as guilty as he is. (CROWD HURMUR) Maybe that old buck you called Captain Kidd did bring you luck, but he's only one of the large number that've been killed outa season. And I wouldn't be surprised if you fellas could tell me what happened to a lot of those deer. You're all het up over the killing of Captain Kidd because he's sort of a pet around here. But this morning I heard some of you joking about poaching as if it was all right. Suppose Jerry and I joked about it when coyotes killed off some of your cattle or sheep.

JIM:

(CONT'D)

Supposin' we sat back and said you had to expect a certain amount of killing anyway. Then you should have something to get worked up about. But that's exactly what you've been doin' to us Forest Rangers. When we asked you to cooperate and help enforce the game laws you said you'd do it. And all the time you had your fingers crossed. Now you're gettin' hit on the recoil. It's comin' back on you and you're out to get somebody for it. The trapper we think might have shot Captain Kidd is in jail now for breaking into government property. But we don't know he's guilty of the deer killing. We have no proof of that. But even if he is guilty, you fellas are just as guilty and more. If you'd reported to Jerry or me that this fella was up there poaching in Cobalt Valley, we could've gone after him before he had time to do much damage. But you figured it was all right for him to poach on a National Forest, as long as he wasn't hurting you. And that's the way you've been lettin' game laws go all the time. Now that it's come back on you, you're all set to raise a rumpus about it. You wanna take it out on somebody. Well, if I was you fellas, I'd get for home and keep quiet. But the next time you know of somebody that's killin' deer outa season, just remember what's happened today.

JIM:

(CONT'D)

And I reckon you won't be so slow about seein' that we Rangers get your cooperation on the game laws. I can't help sayin' I sure appreciate your cooperation on a lot of things where we've been able to get together, but we haven't been workin' together on this game management business. You know it and I know it. And the only thing to do is to start cooperating right now. No one's more sorry than I am that Old Captain Kidd was killed. And if there's any way under the sun of provin' who did it, the Forest Service and the game warden will see to it. But it's up to you and me to see that nothing like this ever happens again on the Pine Cone National Forest.

CROWD:

WE'RE WITH YOU, JIM. YOU'RE THE BOSS, JIM. (GRADUALLY SUBSIDING)

BILL:

(PAUSE) Well, Jim, I guess I....I guess what you said goes for me more'n the other fellas.

JIM:

You know better'n I do, Bill.

BILL:

I never looked at it like that afore, Jim. I figured there wasn't no sense raisin' a row about a little deer shootin'. But I....Well, you won't have to worry about no more of it up my way. I'll handle my end of it any way you say.

JIM:

All right, Bill. I'll depend on that.

MUSIC:

(FINALE)

ANNOUNCER: Uncle Sam's Forest Rangers comes to you on the Farm and Home Hour every Friday as a presentation of the National Broadcasting Company with the cooperation of the United States Forest Service.

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